

Hon. House Fish, Wildlife and
Parks Committee Members:

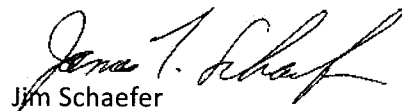
We, the below signed, Tourism Regions and Convention & Visitors Bureaus, formally stand in opposition to House Bill 51 for the following reasons:

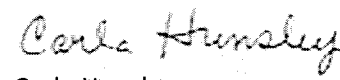
From a tourism and travel perspective State Parks are a vital component of Montana's tourism industry. Currently resident and non-resident visitors are able to enjoy and experience all that our Parks and Fishing Access Sites offer for outdoor recreation. Under the current program, whether or not a resident has opted out, every Montana resident is able to enjoy what most Montanans have come to expect as a part of their Montana lifestyle.

At the current funding level FWP has been able to maintain and make significant improvements that would not have been possible without these funds. Cutting funding by approximately \$5 million over the biennium, will not only impact the quality of our State Parks, but will also greatly impact the economy of the communities near which they are located. This bill will jeopardize the viability of our Parks and thus jeopardize Montana communities and the significant revenues recognized from resident and non-resident visitation.

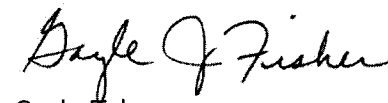
We feel that the current funding mechanism is working well for State Parks and there is no reason in these economic times to change the system. We would like to thank the committee for your time and consideration.


Sincerely,


Jim Schaefer
Custer Country

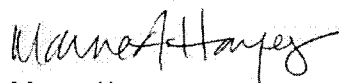

Carla Hunsley
Missouri River Country


Racene Friede
Glacier Country

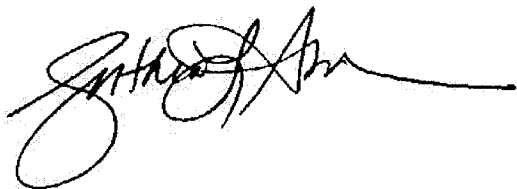

Gayle Fisher
Russell Country


Sarah Bannon
Gold West Country

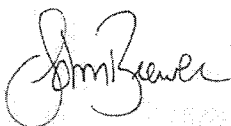

Robin Hoover
Yellowstone Country



Marne Hayes
Big Sky Convention & Visitors Bureau



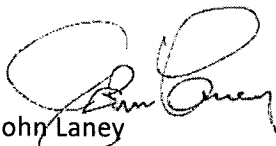
Cynthia Andrus
Bozeman Chamber/Convention & Visitors
Bureau



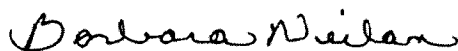
John Brewer
Billings Chamber/Convention & Visitors Bureau



Sara Rowe
Butte Convention & Visitors Bureau



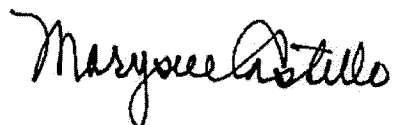
John Laney
Miles City Convention & Visitors Bureau



Barbara Neilan
Missoula Convention & Visitors Bureau



Jan Metzmaker
Whitefish Convention & Visitors Bureau



Marysue Costello
West Yellowstone Chamber/Convention &
Visitors Bureau